



Hunger in America 2001

• Key Findings in western Washington •

The level of hunger that exists in western Washington is unacceptably high and very different than the national “average”

- Food Lifeline’s network of neighborhood food banks report more than a half-million people served last year.
- Uncertainty about where the next meal is coming from (food insecurity) among emergency food recipients in western Washington is nearly 50% higher than the rest of the country.
- More households with children in western Washington experience food insecurity with hunger vs. the national average.
- Higher percentages of people here are having to choose between food and either rent or heat than in other parts of the country.
- Three-quarters of those served by Food Lifeline’s member agencies are working, retired, or disabled.
- Only 5.4% of people receiving emergency food supplies via Food Lifeline’s member agencies list welfare as their primary source of income.
- Nearly half of the emergency food recipients in western Washington have at least some post-high school education – twice the national figure.



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	western WA	National	w. WA vs. Nat'l
	w. WA	Nat'l	
Children	39.30%	38.60%	0.70%
0-5	9.10%	8.60%	0.50%
6-17	30.20%	30.00%	0.20%
18-29	10.00%	12.20%	-2.20%
30-49	30.90%	26.60%	4.30%
50-64	12.90%	11.80%	1.10%
65+	6.90%	10.80%	-3.90%
Food Insecurity *	w. WA	National	
All households --			
Food Insecure *	79.30%	33.90%	45.40%
All households --			
Food Insecure w/ hunger **	51.40%	36.70%	14.70%
Households w/ children -- Food Insecure*	82.70%	38.50%	44.20%
Households w/ children -- Food Insecure w/ hunger **	52.80%	37.40%	15.40%
Education	w. WA	Nat'l	
Total w/ Post HS education	48.00%	23.40%	24.60%
B.A./ B.S./ Post-Grad	8.40%	5.10%	3.30%
Some College / A.A.	35.30%	14.60%	20.70%
Biz/Tech school	4.30%	3.70%	0.60%
HS / GED	31.30%	39.40%	-8.10%
Did not complete HS	20.70%	37.20%	-16.50%
Main Source of Household Income	w. WA	Nat'l	
Job	40.80%	31.10%	9.70%
Social Security/Pension/Disability	34.00%	41.60%	-7.60%
Welfare	5.40%	5.80%	-0.40%
Other (unemployment, child support, relatives, etc.)	9.60%	14.90%	-5.30%
No Income	10.30%	7.30%	3.00%
Households choosing between ...			
food & rent	42.30%	35.70%	6.60%
food & medicine/med.care	30.50%	29.70%	0.80%
food & heat/utilities	53.20%	44.70%	8.50%

* Food insecurity is limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. (Definitions are from the Life Sciences Research Office, S.A. Andersen, ed., "Core Indicators of Nutritional State for Difficult to Sample Populations," The Journal of Nutrition, Vol. 120, 1990, 1557S-1600S.)

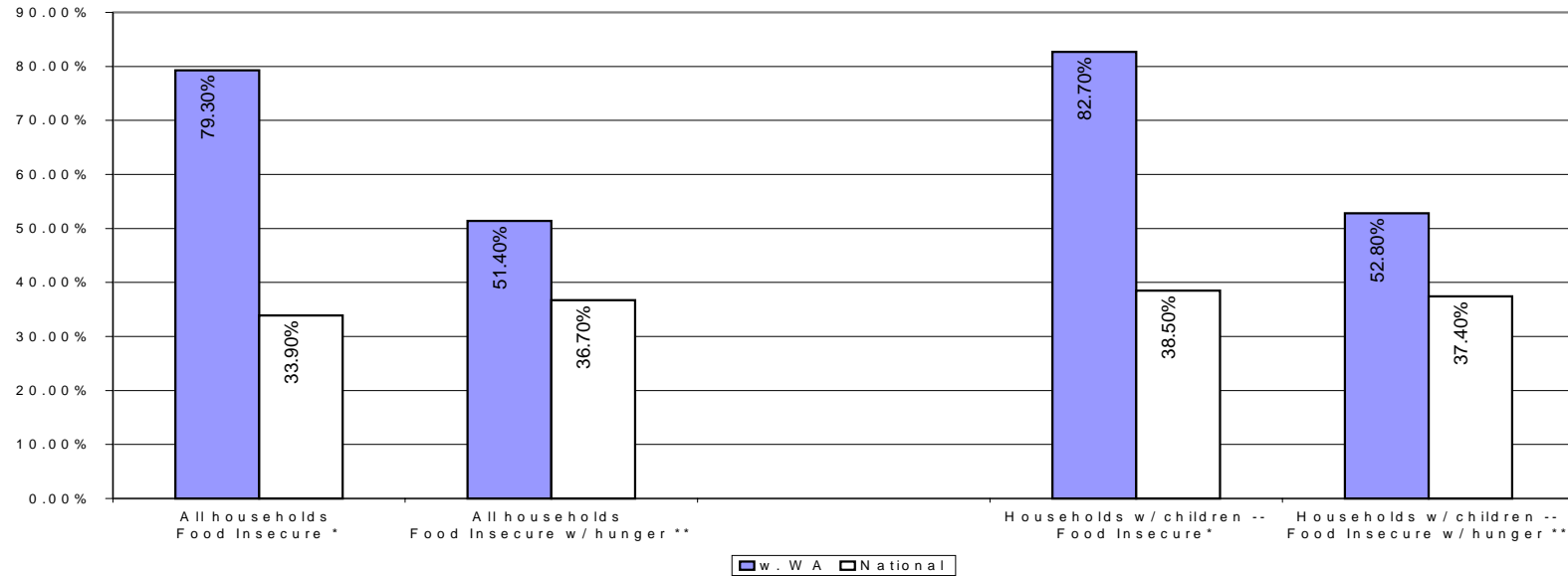
** As measured and described in the U.S. food security measurement project, "hunger" is involuntary hunger that results from not being able to afford enough food.



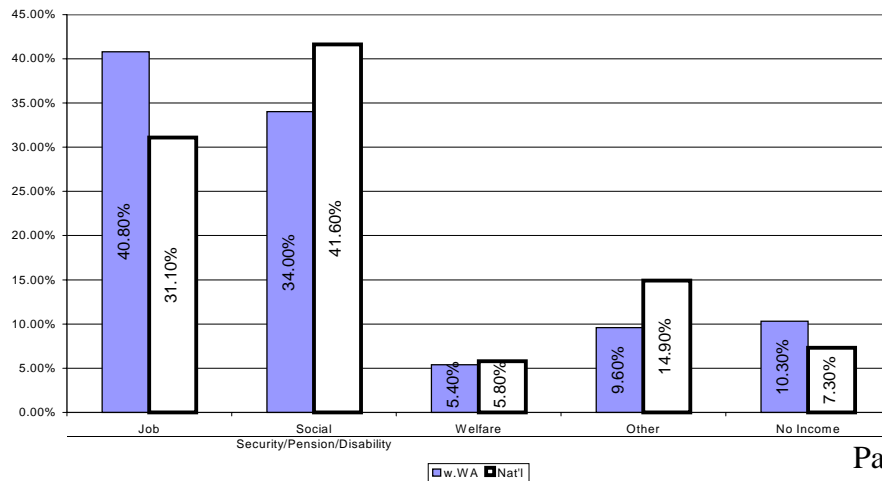
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Food Insecurity



Main HH Income



Education

